

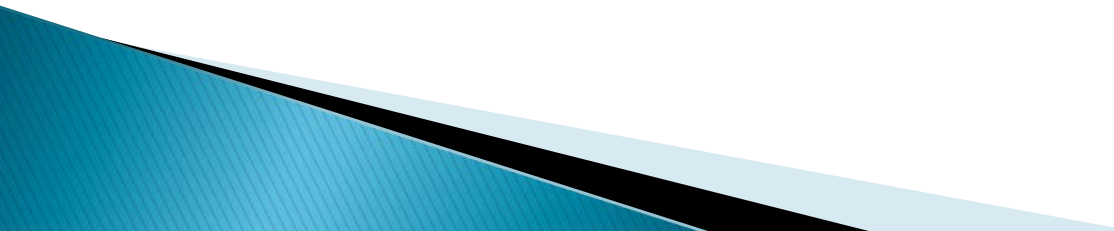
# Poverty in the American Metropolis

Jesus, Maria, Steve, and Brooke

Pre-requisites: Intro to Sociology

Target: Upper-division sociology course; cross listed with other  
behavioral sciences

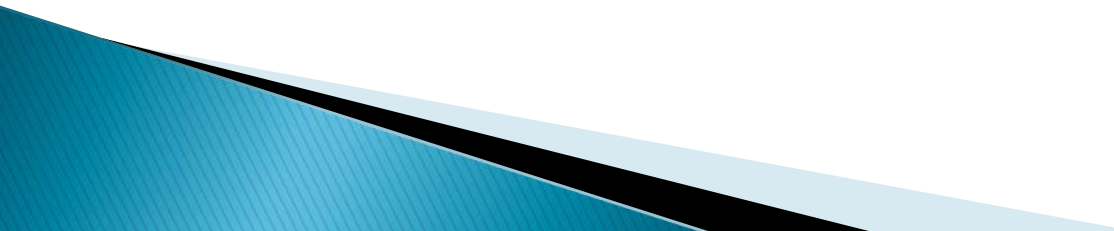
# Course Goal and Objectives

- ▶ To generate discussion and provide more clarity to the causes of urban poverty in the United States
  - ▶ To highlight the lived experience and consequences of poverty in the metropolis, with a particular emphasis on place and space
  - ▶ To engage critically with social policy interventions aimed at ameliorating poverty
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# Poverty: Introduction and Overview

- ▶ Descriptives:
  - What is poverty?
  - Who is poor?
  - How do we measure it?
- ▶ Concentrations of poverty and the urban context
  - Suburbanization of poverty
- ▶ Myths regarding the causes of poverty

# Slums and Racial Segregation in the United States

- ▶ Constructing the ghetto
  - ▶ Early US studies
    - Chicago School
  - ▶ Colored properties
    - Policies and practice
  - ▶ The race/poverty connection through housing
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# Economic Transformation, Globalization, and the Labor Market

- ▶ Wilson and The Truly Disadvantaged
  - Concentration effect, joblessness
- ▶ Globalization
  - Deregulation and Financialization
  - Immigration and the global city
  - The new joblessness

# Financing the Poor: From Exclusion to Extraction

- ▶ Dual credit markets
  - FHA and inner city financing
  - Fannie and Freddie
- ▶ The “democratization” of credit
  - Securitization
  - Selling the risk
  - Forms of predation
    - Payday lending
    - Subprime
    - Loan modifications

# Poverty, Space, and Neighborhood Effects

- ▶ The geography of opportunity structures
  - Where do you live?
  - Place Matters
  - Distribution of social goods
  - Impact on life outcomes
    - MTO

# Race, Class, and Urban (Mis)education Systems

- ▶ Education as the equalizer?
- ▶ Ideology
  - Boot straps and meritocracy
  - Mobility
  - A tale of two schools



# Crime, Policing and Incarceration in the Metropolis

- ▶ The rise of incarceration
  - From school to prison
  - Space-based policing
  - Zero-tolerance
- ▶ Who's in jail?
- ▶ Effects on life chances
  - The New Jim Crow
    - Employment, housing, family
- ▶ The CBA of incarceration

# Partnership, Family, and Managing Private Life

- ▶ Income inequality → Family structure
  - Community contexts and the sex ratio
  - “Eligible” men for marriage
  - Economic barriers to marriage
- ▶ Family structure → Income inequality
  - Making Ends Meet (as a single mom)
- ▶ Unequal childhoods
  - Cultural component to childrearing by class
  - Parenting in the hood

# The Future Poverty as Prospective Process

- ▶ Distressed cities as collective poverty
    - Predatory municipal finance
    - Unfunded liability
  - ▶ The defended community
    - “Sacrifice zone” planning for the public good
    - School closures and privatization of education
  - ▶ Sustainable Communities
    - Regional equity or market segmentation
    - fragmentation
    - The illusion of inclusion
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